

Burton R. McMillan McVile Community

Burton Ralph McMillan, 95, died Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at Montfort Jones Memorial Hospital. Visitation is 7-9 p.m. today at Jordan Funeral Home and 1:30-2 p.m. Saturday at Yockanookany Baptist Church. Services are 2 p.m. Saturday at Yockanookany Baptist Church with burial in Isaacs Cemetery. Rev. Albert Clark will be officiating the services. Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko has charge of the services.

Former Senator Burton McMillan represented Leake County from 1940-1948. He served under four Governors, and, prior to his death, is thought to have been the oldest living former Mississippi legislator.



McMillan

He was born December 10, 1907, in Leake County. He played football at a junior college in Carthage, Mississippi, (which later became East Central Mississippi Community College), in 1926, he attended Delta State College on a work scholarship, while earning a Master's Degree in History at Mississippi State University. He taught at Leake County Agricultural High School and later taught English at a Choctaw school in Leake County which eventually led to his work at Navajo schools in the west. Mr. McMillan spent the last several years in Mississippi residing in the State Veterans Nursing Home in Kosciusko.

Mr. McMillan ran for the Senate in 1939, receiving about 1,700 of the 2,500 votes cast in his district. He joined a group of legislators, who resided for \$1.00 a day at The Edward House, later to be known as the King Edward Hotel, and was characterized by the newspapers as "the biggest spenders in the history of the state" even though they saved enough money to declare the state debt-free in 1945. \par

At the age of 37, Mr. McMillan was one of the Mississippi legislators who was well beyond draft age but voluntarily joined the Army solely to serve during World War II.

He served as an Army clerk for 18 months in northern Europe, and returned in time for the 1946 Regular Session.

Veterans were popular legislators, and McMillan helped push through a controversial bill to build Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, taking advantage in the huge interest in athletics in post-war Mississippi.

Mr. McMillan is preceded in death by his wife of nearly 50 years, the former Evelyn Sanders, who died in 1985, whom he met at Delta State; and son William Larry McMillan.

Survivors include: son, Edgar Ralph McMillan of Gold Canyon, AZ; daughters, Carolyn Barrows of Flowood, MS, Charlotte Anne McMillan of Flagstaff, AZ; grandsons, Jon J. Barrows of Phoenix, AZ, Frederick L. Barrows of New Orleans, LA, and Addo C. Barrows of Phoenix, AZ; daughter-in-laws Maria Gemionote McMillan of Gold Canyon, AZ, Patricia James Barrows of New Orleans, LA; and great-grandson, Simon Greydon Barrows of New Orleans, LA.

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Archives

McMillan, Burton Ralph